

Music development plan summary: Almond Hill Junior school

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2025-26
Date this summary was published	November 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	October 2025
Name of the school music lead	Mrs Karen Cleaves
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Herts Music Service
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences – and what changes we are planning in future years. This information is to help pupils and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

The Music Curriculum is taught through the Charanga Music Scheme. Every class is taught two units across the year by their own class teacher. Each music unit provides opportunities to sing together, play tuned percussion, play recorder or other instrument parts and improvise and compose on these instruments. Each unit culminates in a performance of the unit piece. Teachers may record these and share with parents and wider family via the SeeSaw App. In addition to each music unit taught, children also learn to perform a musical piece using body percussion and untuned percussion instruments.

Through the Rock Steady Scheme, classes also have the opportunity to take part in the weekly interactive 'Feel Good Friday' lessons available through the Rock Steady Portal.

The Music curriculum is supplemented with 25 minutes of singing as part of the weekly celebration assembly. During the summer term, parents are invited to come along to some of these singing assemblies. Additionally, the head holds a weekly 30 minute assembly which includes an opportunity to listen to, appraise and discuss a variety of

musical styles and well known musical compositions. Through these assemblies, the children have had the opportunity to learn about a variety of composers, musical notation and the inter-related dimensions of music (as highlighted on our music curriculum knowledge organisers).

Part B: Co-curricular music

- At Almond Hill, we currently offer small-group lessons on guitar and violin through Herts Music Service. Trained music specialists visit the school and teach children in one of our small breakout rooms.
- We also offer instrumental lessons through 'Rock Steady'. A music teacher from Rock Steady visits weekly and teaches groups of children to play rock instruments (electric guitar, bass guitar, drums, keyboard and vocals) as part of a small rock band. Lessons take place in a breakout room dedicated to group lessons. This is funded by parents.
- Year 6 pupils have the opportunity to learn the recorder (taught by class teachers) as part of their music curriculum.
- We have a school choir mostly comprised of year 5 & 6 pupils but with some year 4 pupils as well. Rehearsals are held weekly during lunchtimes and are held in the school hall led by the music subject leader.
- The Music subject leader runs a singing club during the autumn term for year 3 and year 4 pupils

Instrumental lessons are funded by parents, however for those children who are Pupil Premium, some of these lessons are funded through the Pupil Premium provision. Rock Steady offers one funded bursary place. The choir is free for all members.

Part C: Musical experiences

Children at Almond Hill have the opportunity to perform in musical events and to experience live performances:

- Year 3 Christmas musical.
- Years 4 & 5 Christmas carol sing-a-long.in December
- Year 6 Christmas Carol service at St Nicholas Church.
- The Choir have opportunities to perform at local community events including charity concerts, The Stevenage Gala and at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the Hertfordshire Schools ensemble. They have also performed as part of a World digichoir in the annual World Sing Up day.

- Pupils in year 5 & 6 attend musical performances at Barclay School and Thomas Alleyne's Academy
- December Talent show- All children have the opportunity to audition and perform in upper and lower school talent shows at the end of the autumn term. Staff may also perform in the talent show.
- Year 6 perform some song and dance pieces as part of their leavers' video which is shown to parents in an end of year graduation event. The link for this is also shared for wider family members and friends to access.
- Children who have Rock Steady lessons, perform in a termly concert for parents
- Children who learn an instrument (in or out of school) can take part in a summer term music concert for parents .
- Part of the weekly celebration assembly is dedicated to singing (upper and lower school) All children learn a range of songs from different time periods and different cultures. They learn to sing in unison, in rounds and different parts.
- All children have the opportunity to be part of whole school performances for special occasions E.g The school's Diamond Jubilee.
- Visiting musicians perform at our school E.g. Natalie Shay (part of well being week), Ross Lanning (Herts Music Service)

In the future

Over the next 3 years, our Music Development Plan aims to achieve the following:

- Further review and development of a whole school music scheme that ensures consistency and progression from year 3 to year 6. We will continue to use the Charanga Scheme but will supplement our music provision from other sources including Sing-Up.
- Investigate opportunities to develop and use music technology to enhance our music curriculum.
- To further develop our partnership with the Hertfordshire Music Service to enable us to provide wider opportunities for all children to learn a musical instrument.
- Extend our links with our main infant feeder school (LINS) to ensure smooth progression for Key stage 1 to Key Stage 2.
- Develop links with secondary feeder schools (Barclay School and Thomas Alleyne's) to aid the transition from KS2 to KS3.
- Develop further performance opportunities for our children throughout the year.
- Further develop engagement in extra-curricular music for Pupil Premium and SEND children
- To provide a wider range of musical performances for children to experience.